Fertilizer	Fertilizer exporting countries
DAP	USA, Mexico, Russian Federation, Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and South Africa.
MOP	Germany, Canada, Belarus, Russian Federation, Israel and Jordan.

(c) and (d) While the details of cost of production of the chemical fertilizers by the exporting countries are not generally published in international journals because of commercial interests, import prices (FOB) of Urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Muriate of Potash (MOP) are regularly published in Fertilizer Marketing Bulletin (FMB) and other weekly bulletins. However, the delivered prices of imported Urea and DAP have been generally lower as compared to domestically produced Urea and DAP. The MOP is entirely imported, as there are no commercially exploitable reserves of this fertilizer in the country.

Fertilizer Subsidy for Farmers

† 3842. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Farmers receive just half of fertilizers subsidy", published in "The Indian Express" dated the 10th April, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and the action taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The news-item which refers to a study by an economist, has concluded that the gains from subsidy on urea are shared by the farmers and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the industry equally. This conclusion is based on a number of assumptions which have either undergone change already or are not maintainable. The subsidy on urea is the difference between the Retention Price and the Maximum Retail Price, which is statutorily notified by the Government. Therefore, the benefit of the subsidy is available to the farmers. There is no subsidy being provided to fertilizer units under the Retention Price Scheme. These units are being provided 12% post-tax return on their net-worth besides reimbursement of cost of production. It is true that the cost of production of urea in India, *vis-a-vis* many other countries, is often high on account of higher cost of raw materials in India *viz.* gas, naphtha, fuel oil/low sulphur heavy stocks etc. The purchase of indigenous urea from high cost domestic units is being done out of the over-riding consideration of ensuring self-sufficiency in nitrogenous fertilizers in the country.

Increase in prices of life saving drugs

3843. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of increase in prices of life saving drugs for the last three years, year-wise, for each brand of drug, separately;

(b) the demand and supply position; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the supply position?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 does not make any distinction between life saving drugs and other drugs. Life saving nature of a drug depends upon a particular situation and circumstances. During the period 1997-98 and 1999-2000, the prices of drugs and medicines, as measured by the wholesale price index (base 1993-94 = 100) has increased by 49.03%.

(b) There are no reports of imbalance between the Demand and Supply of Drugs in the country. However, whenever shortages are